

The INFORMANT

The Kansas City Missouri Police Department

Arrest teams help break domestic violence cycle

A new program designed to assist with Intimate Partner Violence cases was recently implemented.

Since October 12, 2016, two-person DV Arrest Teams have been assisting case detectives, removing some of the legwork, enabling them to concentrate on other investigative tasks.

Captain Sondra Zink, Special Victims Unit Commander, coordinates the Grant to Encourage Arrest program with Rose Brooks Center. The Kansas City Missouri Police Department has been in partnership with Rose Brooks since 2014 and is the only local agency on the grant.

Originally, the grant paid for a designated detective to serve as an arrest coordinator to encourage DV arrests. Staffing cuts and limited manpower led to the elimination of that detective position, but the work remained.

Ensuring the funds were used appropriately and within the confines of the grant, a process was conceived in which the creation of arrest teams was born.

Grant funds pay for overtime hours for officers to work once a week, four hours a day, as their schedules allow. There are currently 6-7 officers who say they enjoy the work and consistently volunteer for the job. They had only one occasion when the officers, due to extenuating circumstances, were unable to complete their assigned shift.

Initially, the team's sole responsibility was to coordinate arrests of wanted parties. Officers utilize a car furnished by the unit, which has a computer to run REJIS information, gather Intel, photos or access DOR databases.

Over the course of the week, prior to the team's arrival, case detectives compile tasks for the officers to complete. These consist of arresting persons with pickup orders or outstanding warrants, residence checks for a victim who hasn't been able to come in or trying to track down a witness.

"Our 1st priority is any pickups or outstanding warrants. Once efforts are exhausted, then they move on to locating witnesses and victims, which are very time-consuming tasks for detectives and this takes a little bit off their plates," Zink said.



ROSE BROOKS

Breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

"This allows them to focus more on the actual interview or things that can't be done by a patrol officer."

Sometimes the DV Arrest Teams collect Intel on abandoned addresses, forwarding addresses and conduct Field Interviews. If they are unable to speak directly to victims or witnesses, they leave a door hanger encouraging the victim or witness to contact detectives, which has resulted in increased interaction.

From initial implementation to mid December, teams have conducted 50 residence checks for parties wanted or to locate witnesses or victims. This has culminated in felony pickup orders and securing formal statements from victims, enabling detectives to pursue cases further. Locating individuals involved is crucial for the progression of the cases. If a victim is contacted and decide they no longer wish to continue with prosecution, the investi-

gating detective can then direct their efforts toward other cases.

"We are starting to go back to what our original intent was, as far as the ones that actually have warrants and pickups out. Those will be our first priority. And then we will start looking for victims and witnesses. We are very fortunate that it has gone very well," said Zink. The arrest teams have taken the burden off the detectives by getting the suspects in and Zink has received positive feedback from the sergeants and detectives in the unit. She said it's been hugely successful.

Since it's inception, the program has been and continues to be fine-tuned. A proposal for a second team to cover a four-hour stretch, one evening a week, has been submitted. They would reach out to persons not available during daytime hours.

All the partners on the grant have signed off and submitted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which would extend it an additional three years past the September expiration.

With twice as many incustodies as this time last year, Zink said, "The detectives are very, very busy. Making them a little busier in a positive way. It's helping everybody."

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NRA Law Enforcement Instructor of the Year

The National Rifle Association chose Sergeant Ward Smith of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department as the 2016 NRA Law Enforcement Instructor of the Year.

Sergeant Smith, a 29-year veteran with the KCPD and an NRA certified instructor since 1984 has been assigned to the KCPD Firearms Training and Tactics Section since 2006. He holds several NRA Law Enforcement certifications, is a certified Force Science Institute Force Analyst, and has authored articles on firearms training and the use of force.

“Having Sergeant Smith at the Academy opens up endless training possibilities,” said Captain Stephenie Price, Commander of the Training Unit. “He is open to ideas and feedback, with the true goal of improving shooting and tactical skills for all.”

Sergeant Smith and the Kansas City Missouri Police Department Firearms Training and Tactics staff are responsible for tri-annually training the members of the KCPD, which totals over 16,000 man-hours of education each year. Additionally, they provide mandatory instruction for Kansas City’s 2,200+ privately licensed security officers and 120+ hours of training for each Kansas City Missouri Regional Training Academy recruit class.

“I am very passionate about teaching officers good weapons skills,” said Sergeant Ward Smith. “I am proud that my command staff has the faith in me and allows me to be that person for the KCPD,” he added.

Sergeant Smith’s interest and love for shooting started at the very young age of 5. His father and grandfather owned an old black powder gun that no one could seem to hit their target with, so his grandfather allowed him to give it a try. They lined up six cans in a row on fence posts and he shot all of them, in a row, no misses.

“Firearms was a source of enjoyment for me ever since,” said Sergeant Smith. “I probably shot a million BBs through an air rifle growing up,” he added.

Sergeant Smith then discovered a passion for police work and



Below: Sergeant Ward Smith along with the Firearms Training staff help members of the department fine tune their shooting skills.



knew that a firearm was one of the tools necessary for that career. He also developed a passion for teaching others along the way.

“Sergeant Smith comes to work with enthusiasm, has an eye to improve training, he loves to teach, he learns from his students and he likes to have fun,” said Captain Price.

Sergeant Smith stays active in regional firearms competitions, including the Johnson County Kansas Sheriff Department Shootout, which benefits Special Olympics, and the Kansas City Metro Crime Commission Border Showdown. The Border Showdown pits the best shooters from Kansas and Missouri against each other and benefits the Surviving Spouse and Family Endowment Fund, S.A.F.E. Program, supporting the families of fallen officers. Sergeant Smith won the individual competition in 2015 and 2016.

Over the last several years, the KCPD has been at the forefront of firearms training in

regard to De-escalation Techniques and Controlling Proximity during critical incidents. The Firearms Training and Tactics Section staff has been recognized nationally for the training developed to address these issues.

“Sergeant Smith is in a constant state of improvement both personally and professionally,” said Captain Price. “He is a lifelong learner and has instilled this servant philosophy in his staff,” she added.

Established in 1871, the National Rifle Association is America’s oldest civil rights and sportsmen’s group. Five million members strong, the NRA continues its mission to uphold Second Amendment rights and is the leader in firearm education and training for law-abiding gun owners, law enforcement and the military.

“This is such an incredible honor and I hope to continue to be worthy of this award,” said Sergeant Smith.

New patrol wagons hittin' the streets

What's bigger, better and looks pretty awesome rolling down the streets of Metro Patrol Division? It's KCPD's new Ford Transit E-350 patrol wagon.

Six new Transits will replace the older, high-mileage Ford wagons, which haven't been in production since 2014. Central and East Patrol are next in line after the vehicles are fully equipped. Of the three remaining wagons, one is at the Academy for training purposes and the final two are awaiting their equipment. The department shuttle bus and road van are also Transits.

Since they are 20 inches longer than the current wagons, drivers now will have the ability to adjust their seats like in a car, and there's room to place equipment behind the seat instead of on the passenger side. This also means an easier entry and exit through the rear door, more room for the enhanced rear HVAC system, plus three steps in order to get into the compartment.

Vendor input, wagon driver feedback, officer and arrestee safety and countless hours of brainstorming sessions led to numerous, innovative, money-saving modifications.

According to Mark Crawford, Fleet Operations Technician, "These were mainly put together on Dogwatch Watch I hours. It was Shawn and Jeremy that did a lot of it."

Fleet Operations Technicians Shawn Bardwell and Jeremy Rezen saved the department over \$15,000 per vehicle just by re-using the original cages from the old wagons. And that was only the beginning.

They ensured officers and arrestees wouldn't come in contact with rear overhead door latches by covering that area with a "headache rack" fashioned from PVC pipe cut in half with notched out areas. The rear HVAC unit and its side tubing were covered by a newly constructed box and PVC pipe, which handily serves as a

place to hang cuffs, helmets and masks. Piping, similar to the current wagon setup was used to direct heat and air to the side compartment.

With the extended length, they felt it was necessary to design a device so officers can stay standing with an arrest, pull a lever and open the cage door. That mechanism was created from spare Crown Vic tire handles, extra cables and other miscellaneous parts found at the unit.

Rezen and Bardwell also creatively up cycled the unused aluminum center consoles removed from the Dodge Chargers, added hand-cuff locks and produced rifle racks for the wagons.

The front curtain air bag would have made installation of the spotlight tricky and possibly affect the safety of the driver, so it was eliminated. Slip-resistant, super grip paint was used to cover the slick factory finish on the two-foot area from the larger step bumper to the cage, which will help during inclement weather and exposed edges and open gaps, where contraband could possibly be hidden, were covered.

Exterior visibility was also a concern. Bumper lights become blocked when the doors are open and the light bar is not easily seen with the longer frame, so lights were added in the doors and upper frame to better define the vehicle profile. Additional, brighter lights were installed inside the transport compartment. And, to better recognize the new vehicles on the street, Inventory Specialist Henry Stivers said the KCPD decals were made larger for the sides with smaller front and rear decals, giving the wagons a better appearance.

All these modifications took around 80 hours of labor to outfit the first vehicle since there was a lot to figure out. As the wagons are in service, future changes could be made.

If you don't initially see the new Transit, the 4 speakers on the front accessory rack – or Howler – will make it impossible not to hear it coming.



2017 Polar Plunge



The Annual Polar Plunge at Longview Lake on Sat., Jan. 28 was a success, with 745 plungers participating. Braving the cold and diving into the icy 35-degree water, plungers raised more than \$283,000 for Missouri Special Olympics. This year had many firsts, first Pee Wee Plunge with four plungers participating under the age of nine raising \$1,000 and the first Puppy Plunge. Sergeant Josh Heinen of Metro Patrol Division carried the torch at the big event and was named Outstanding Volunteer Unsung Hero for our region in 2016.

Upcoming Events

March 1
North and South Patrol
Division Open House

March 2
Metro Patrol Division
Open House

March 4
Shoal Creek Patrol Division
Open House

March 7
Board of Police
Commissioners Meeting

Promotion Ceremony

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Officially Speaking

Awards

Special Unit Citation

Captain Ryan Mills
Sergeant Jacob Becchina
Sergeant Andrew Uptegrove
Officer Hyajin Bushey
Analyst Allison Stone

Retirements

Detective David Needham
Detective Darrell Reach

Obituary

Retired Major William Frazier

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Kansas City Missouri
Police Department is to
protect and serve with
professionalism, honor
and integrity.